

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12  
SSM-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15  
HA-05 MCT-01 ACDA-12 /153 W  
-----122866 150111Z /64

R 142029Z NOV 77  
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7409  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PORG, XF  
SUBJECT: AMB. HERZOG SUBMITS LETTER ON SOUTH LEBANON

1. ISRAELI PERM. REP. HERZOG REQUESTED THAT A LETTER  
DEALING WITH THE SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON BE CIRCULATED  
AS A UN DOCUMENT OVER THE WEEKEND. THE LETTER IS REPRODUCED  
BELOW.

2. QUOTE:

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THIRTY-SECOND SESSION, AGENDA ITEM 31  
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

LETTER DATED 11 NOVEMBER 1977 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-  
GENERAL  
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ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM MY GOVERNMENT, I HAVE THE HONOUR TO DRAW  
YOUR ATTENTION TO THE DEVELOPMENTS ALONG THE LEBANESE BORDER.

FOLLOWING THE INTERNECINE ARAB SLAUGHTER WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE  
IN LEBANON OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH OF  
THE COUNTRY BORDERING ON ISRAEL HAS REMAINED UNSETTLED. PLO FORCES

IN THAT AREA HAVE ATTEMPTED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS TO ANNIHILATE THE LEBANESE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY THERE, NUMBERING SOME 50,000 MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN. THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO THE DEFENCE OF THE LIVES OF THOSE CHRISTIANS. AFTER SERIOUS OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE OVER THE SUMMER BETWEEN PLO AND THE CHRISTIANS, A CEASE-FIRE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON ENTERED INTO FORCE ON 26 SEPTEMBER 1977.

NEGOTIATIONS WERE SET IN TRAIN FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE PLO FORCES FROM THE AREA AND FOR THE RE-ENTRY OF THE RECONSTITUTED LEBANESE ARMY INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON. VARIOUS ELEMENTS WITHIN PLO DECLARED THEMSELVES OPPOSED TO THE CEASE-FIRE AND ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WOULD TAKE STEPS TO SABOTAGE IT. THESE ELEMENTS, WHICH APPARENTLY INCLUDED FATAH, THE PRINCIPLE ORGANIZATION IN PLO, AND THE POPULAR FRONT", WHICH IS PART OF THE SO-CALLED "REJECTIONIST FRONT", SOUGHT TO REACTIVATE MILITARY ACTION IN THE AREA NOT ONLY TO PREVENT THE LEBANESE ARMY FROM RE-ESTABLISHING ITSELF OVER SOVEREIGN LEBANESE TERRITORY, BUT ALSO TO PREJUDICE THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE.

TO THIS END, PLO ELEMENTS ACTED SUBVERSIVELY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND ALSO, FROM THE END OF SEPTEMBER TO THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER, LAUNCHED EIGHT ROCKET ATTACKS ACROSS THE BORDER WITH ISRAEL ON NORTHERN CIVILIAN TARGETS AT SAFED, KIRYAT SHMONA, NAHARIYA, ACRE, METULLA AND RAMAT ALMA. SEVERAL CIVILIANS WERE INJURED IN THESE ATTACKS AND CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE WAS DONE TO PROPERTY. OVER THE UNCLASSIFIED

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LAST 10 DAYS, THE PLO HAS ALSO STEPPED UP THEIR ATTACKS ON THE CHRISTIANS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, USING INTER ALIA, ROCKETS AND ARTILLERY. THEN ON 6 NOVEMBER 1977, A KATYUSHA ROCKET ATTACK USING 122 MILLIMETRE ROCKETS WITH A RANGE OF 22 KILOMETRES, WAS MUNTED AGAINST THE TOWN OF NAHARIYA. IN THIS ATTACK, TWO VILIVANS WERE KILLED. ON 8 NOVEMBER, A FURTHER BARRAGE OF 22 KATYUSHA ROCKETS WAS LAUCHED AGAINST NAHARIYA, WITH THE RESULT THAT ONE WOMEN WAS KILLED AND FIVE WERE INJURED.

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND IN THE LIGHT OF INTELLIGENCE INDICATING THAT THE NUMBER OF SUCH ATTACKS ON ISRAELI CIVILIAN TARGETS WAS TO INCREASE IN SCOPE AND INTENSITY, THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL WAS LEFT WITH NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO STRIKE AT THE SOURCES OF FIRE WITH A VIEW TO PREVENTING FURTHER ESCALATION OF THE VIOLENCE AND THE SERIOUS DANGER OF JEOPARDIZING THE CURRENT MOVES TOWARDS ACCOMODATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES TO THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE.

ACCORDINGLY, ON 9 NOVEMBER AN AERIAL BOMBARDMENT WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE ISRAEL DEFENCE FORCES AGAINST THE FOLLOWING SOURCES OF ATTACK:

(A) RAS AL-BAYDE, THE TERRORIST HEADQUARTERS AND AMMUNITION BASE IN SOUTH-WESTERN LEBANON;

(B) TEL ARMIS, A TERRORIST BASE IN THE AREA FROM WHICH THE KATYUSHA SHELLS WERE FIRED AGAINST NAHARIYA ON 8 NOVEMBER;

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(C) AL AZIYA, A TERRORIST TRAINING CAMP;

(D) AL HANIYA, A TERRORIST CAMP, AND ARMS AND WEAPONS STORE;

(E) AN AMMUNITION STORE NORTH OF BURT AL SHAMLI;

(F) WADI AL ASWAD, THE TERRORISTS' PRINCIPAL AMMUNITION STORE  
IN SOUTH-WESTERN LEBANON.

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT, IN THE COURSE OF THIS ACTION, THE AMMUNITION STORES WERE HIT AND RESULTED IN EXTENSIVE CHAIN EXPLOSIONS, THUS CAUSING CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE AND APPARENTLY LEADING TO CIVILIAN CASUALTIES. THE FAULT FOR THIS LIES ENTIRELY WITH THE PLO TERRORIST GROUPS, WHICH AS A MATTER OF POLICY LOCATE THEIR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN OR NEAR CIVILIAN CENTRES IN THE HOPE OF INHIBITING ACTION AGAINST THEM. THIS FACT WAS TESTIFIED TO BY THE LEBANESE AMBASSADOR WHEN HE ADDRESSED THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 14

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OCTOBER 1976:

"FOR YEARS, (THE PLO) STEADILY INCREASED THE INFLUX OF ARMS INTO LEBANON - ARMS OF ALL CALIBRES AND FROM VARIOUS SOURCES. THEY TRANSFORMED MOST - IF NOT ALL - OF THE REFUGEE CAMPS INTO MILITARY BASTIONS AROUND OUR MAJOR CITIES, IN THE HEART OF OUR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CENTRES, AND IN THE VICINITY OF LARGE CIVILIAN CONGLOMERATIONS". 1/

SINCE THEM, CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM LEADERS IN LEBANON HAVE BEEN EMPHATIC IN THEIR CONDEMNATION OF THE PLO PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH OF LEBANON. FOR EXAMPLE, CAMILLE CHAMOUN SAID THE FOLLOWING ON 22 SEPTEMBER 1977:

"THE ARMED PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH IS THE REASON FOR THE INCIDENTS AND THE ACTS OF HOSTILITY AGAINST LEBANON. THE AGREEMENTS WHEREBY PALESTINIANS SHOULD HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM THE SOUTH HAVE NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED UNTIL NOW BECAUSE OF THE OPPOSITION OF ARAFAT".

PIERRE GEMAYEL, SPEAKING ON THE PHALANGIST RADIO ON 9 SEPTEMBER 1977, SAID THAT:

"ONE THING IS REQUIRED A THAT THE PALESTINIANS RETURN TO THEIR CAMPS WITHOUT CONDITIONS, AND WITHOUT HAVING ANY FURTHER MILITARY OR POLITICAL INFLUENCE ON LEBANESE TERRITORY".

MOREOVER ON 15 AUGUST 1977, THE BEIRUT NEWSPAPER AL-ANWAR QUOTED KAZIM AL-KHALIL, A SHI'ITE MUSLIM MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FROM THE TYRE REGION, AS SAYING:

"IT IS THE MASSIVE PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH WHICH LED  
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TO THE CRISIS IN THE SOUTH".

I TAKE THIS OPPORUNITY TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL REMAINS WILLING TO PLAY ITS PART IN MAINTAINING PEACEFUL CONDITIONS ALONG ITS BORDER WITH LEBANON ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS. IT MUST BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT ISRAEL RESERVES ITS RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENCE.

I SHOULD BE GREATFUL IF YOUR EXCELLENCY WOULD HAVE THIS LETTER CIRCULATED AS A DOCUMENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, UNDER AGENDA ITEM 31 ANB OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

UNQUOTE

1/ OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THIRTY-FIRST  
SESSION, PLENARY MEETINGS, 32ND MEETINGS, PARA. 64.

LEONARD

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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